

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-19 and 21 are pending.

Reply to Examiner's Response

Embodiments of the present claimed invention provide a user interface mechanism that allows a user to modify the contents of a sort table to alter sort instructions used for sorting records by category. As presented in the claims, a sort table (e.g., element 310 of Figure 7 of the instant application) is accessed to establish a first sort field (e.g., primary sort field 310b of Figure 7) for a category. The first sort field is used to produce a first (sorted) list (e.g., list 410a of Figure 9). Then, a second list of sort instructions (e.g., element 510 of Figures 13A and 13B of the instant application) for the category can be displayed to the user. By selecting from the second list a sort field that is currently being used (e.g., sort field 520c of Figure 13B), a third list of sort fields (e.g., pop-down list 530 of Figure 13B) is displayed. The third list includes sort fields that can be used to replace the sort field (e.g., sort field 520c) currently being used. The user can then select a sort field from the third list to replace the sort field currently being used. Thus, according to embodiments of the present claimed invention, the third list is accessed and displayed via the second list.

The user interface of AddressPro v4.0 by ZingWare ("AddressPro") is described in Section 6.2 of that reference. As understood by the Applicant, to establish a sort order for a category according to AddressPro, the user selects the category and then chooses a main sort field and a secondary sort field from a predefined list. To change the sort order, the user again selects the category, then

chooses the main sort field and the secondary sort field from the same predefined list.

In contrast to AddressPro, according to the present claimed invention as described above, to change a sort order, the user selects a sort field already in use and, in response to that selection, is provided with a list of potential replacement sort fields. Thus, the present claimed invention provides a different user interface than that provided by AddressPro.

More specifically, Applicant respectfully submits that AddressPro, alone or in combination with the other cited prior art references, does not show or suggest “displaying a second list comprising sort instructions stored in said sort table, wherein said second list comprises a sort field for each of said different categories including said first sort field for said first category type; ... receiving an indication from said user that selects said first sort field;” and in response to receiving said indication from said user selecting said first sort field, “displaying a third list comprising sort fields that can be used instead of said first sort field, wherein said user can replace said first sort field with a sort field selected from said third list” as recited in the claims. Note that the first sort field is in the claimed second list, which is the current list of sort fields specifically for the first category type and which is not the same as the predefined list of sort fields of AddressPro.

In the instant Office Action, the Examiner states that the different sorting schemes of AddressPro are the claimed first, second, third and fourth lists. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant respectfully submits that the sorting schemes of AddressPro (alone or in combination with the other cited prior art

references) do not show or suggest the claimed third list, which is created (displayed) and accessed via the claimed second list.

The specific claim rejections are responded to below.

112 Rejections

Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-19 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Specifically, according to the instant Office Action, the “third list” in Claims 1, 8 and 15, and the “fourth list” in Claims 2, 9 and 16, are not disclosed in the specification. Applicant respectfully submits that, with reference to the instant application, the “third list” is shown as element 530 in Figure 13B, and the “fourth list” is shown as, for example, element 410b in Figure 10 (the “first list” is, for example, element 410a of Figure 9 and the “second list” is element 510 of Figure 13A). Claims 3-5, 7, 10-12, 14, 17-19 and 21 are dependent on Claims 1, 8 and 15. Applicant respectfully submits that the basis for rejecting Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-19 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, is traversed.

103 Rejections

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, 12, 14-17, 19 and 21

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, 12, 14-17, 19 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shakib et al. ("Shakib;" US 5,752,025) in view of AddressPro. The Applicant has reviewed the cited references and respectfully asserts that Shakib and AddressPro, alone or in combination, do not show or suggest the embodiments of the present invention recited in Claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, 12, 14-17, 19 and 21.

Embodiments of the present claimed invention provide a user interface mechanism that allows a user to modify the contents of a sort table to alter sort instructions used for sorting records by category. As described starting at line 15 on page 24 of the instant application, a first listing of sort instructions is displayed to the user. Different groups are displayed, each group containing a category name and sort field(s) for that category. By selecting a sort field that is currently being used, a second listing of sort fields is displayed. The second listing includes sort fields that can be used to replace the sort field currently being used. The user can then select a sort field from the second listing to replace the sort field currently being used. Thus, according to embodiments of the present claimed invention, the second listing is accessed and displayed via the first listing.

Applicant respectfully asserts that Shakib does not show or suggest the claimed user interface mechanism described above. Specifically, Applicant respectfully asserts that Shakib does not show or suggest a method comprising "displaying a second list comprising sort instructions stored in said sort table, wherein said second list comprises a sort field for each of said different categories including said first sort field for said first category type; ... receiving an indication from said user that selects said first sort field; ... in response ..., displaying a third list comprising sort fields that can be used instead of said first sort field, wherein said user can replace said first sort field with a sort field selected from said third list" as recited in independent Claim 1. Claims 2-3, 5 and 7 are dependent on Claim 1.

In addition, Applicant respectfully asserts that Shakib does not show or suggest a method comprising "displaying a second list comprising sort

instructions stored in said sort table, wherein said second list comprises a sort field for each of said different categories including said first sort field for said first category type; ... receiving an indication from said user that selects said first sort field; ... in response ..., displaying a third list comprising sort fields that can be used instead of said first sort field, wherein said user can replace said first sort field with a sort field selected from said third list" as recited in independent Claim 8. Claims 9-10, 12 and 14 are dependent on Claim 8.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully asserts that Shakib does not show or suggest an electronic device that implements a method comprising "displaying a second list comprising sort instructions stored in said sort table, wherein said second list comprises a sort field for each of said different categories including said first sort field for said first category type; ... receiving an indication from said user that selects said first sort field; ... in response ..., displaying a third list comprising sort fields that can be used instead of said first sort field, wherein said user can replace said first sort field with a sort field selected from said third list" as recited in independent Claim 15. Claims 16-17, 19 and 21 are dependent on Claim 15.

Applicant further submits that AddressPro does not overcome the shortcomings of Shakib. Applicant understands AddressPro to provide a user interface for changing sort order. However, as discussed in the reply to the Examiner's response above, Applicant submits that the user interface of AddressPro is different from that of the present claimed invention.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that AddressPro, alone or in

combination with Shakib, does not show or suggest a method comprising "displaying a second list comprising sort instructions stored in said sort table, wherein said second list comprises a sort field for each of said different categories including said first sort field for said first category type; ... receiving an indication from said user that selects said first sort field; ... in response ..., displaying a third list comprising sort fields that can be used instead of said first sort field, wherein said user can replace said first sort field with a sort field selected from said third list" as recited in independent Claims 1 and 8. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully asserts that AddressPro, alone or in combination with Shakib, does not show or suggest an electronic device that implements a method comprising "displaying a second list comprising sort instructions stored in said sort table, wherein said second list comprises a sort field for each of said different categories including said first sort field for said first category type; ... receiving an indication from said user that selects said first sort field; ... in response ..., displaying a third list comprising sort fields that can be used instead of said first sort field, wherein said user can replace said first sort field with a sort field selected from said third list" as recited in independent Claim 15.

In summary, Applicant respectfully submits that Shakib and AddressPro, alone or in combination, do not show or suggest the present invention as recited in independent Claims 1, 8 and 15, and that the basis for rejecting these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is traversed. Accordingly, Applicant also respectfully submits that the basis for rejecting Claims 2-3, 5, 7, 9-10, 12, 14, 16-17, 19 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is traversed, as these claims are dependent on allowable base claims and recite additional limitations.

Claims 4, 11 and 18

Claims 4, 11 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shakib in view of AddressPro and further in view of Eagle (US 6,226,739). The Applicant has reviewed these references and respectfully asserts that the present invention as recited in Claims 4, 11 and 18 is not anticipated nor rendered obvious by Shakib, AddressPro and Eagle, alone or in combination.

As presented above, Applicant respectfully submits that Shakib and AddressPro, alone or in combination, do not show or suggest the present invention as recited in Claims 1, 8 and 15. Claim 4 is dependent on Claim 1 and recites additional limitations, Claim 11 is dependent on Claim 8 and recites additional limitations, and Claim 18 is dependent on Claim 15 and recites additional limitations.

Eagle does not overcome the shortcomings of Shakib and AddressPro. Specifically, Applicant respectfully asserts that Eagle, alone or in combination with Shakib and AddressPro, does not show or suggest a method comprising "displaying a second list comprising sort instructions stored in said sort table, wherein said second list comprises a sort field for each of said different categories including said first sort field for said first category type; ... receiving an indication from said user that selects said first sort field; ... in response ..., displaying a third list comprising sort fields that can be used instead of said first sort field, wherein said user can replace said first sort field with a sort field selected from said third list" as recited in independent Claims 1 and 8. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully asserts that Eagle, alone or in combination with Shakib and AddressPro, does not show or suggest an electronic device that implements a

method comprising "displaying a second list comprising sort instructions stored in said sort table, wherein said second list comprises a sort field for each of said different categories including said first sort field for said first category type; ... receiving an indication from said user that selects said first sort field; ... in response ..., displaying a third list comprising sort fields that can be used instead of said first sort field, wherein said user can replace said first sort field with a sort field selected from said third list" as recited in independent Claim 15.

In summary, Applicant respectfully submits that Shakib, AddressPro and Eagle, alone or in combination, do not show or suggest the present invention as recited in independent Claims 1, 8 and 15. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 4 dependent on Claim 1, Claim 11 dependent on Claim 8, and Claim 18 dependent on Claim 15 are also not shown or suggested by Shakib, AddressPro and Eagle, alone or in combination. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the basis for rejecting Claims 4, 11 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is traversed, as these claims are dependent on allowable base claims and recite additional limitations.

CONCLUSION

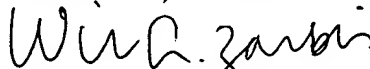
Based on the remarks and amendments presented above, Applicant requests allowance of the present Application.

Based on the arguments presented above, Applicant respectfully asserts that Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-19 and 21 overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, Applicant respectfully solicits allowance of these Claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

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Respectfully submitted,
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